Offer of a channel to Doordarshan by Hongkong based star T.V.

185. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hongkong-based Satellite Television Asia Region (STAR T.V.) has offered a channel to Doordarshan on the Asiasat-2 satellite free of cost; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. STAR TV intends to offer an encrypted digital 'channel' free of cost on ASIASAT-2, likely to be launched towards the end of 1994 or early 1995.

(b) Details of terms and conditions of the offer have not been specified to enable Doordarshan to arrive at a decision.

Change in the national film award rules

186. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce certain changes in the national film award rules.

(b) if so, what are the major changes introduced in the rules; and

(c) what circumstances have led to these changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following major changes have been introduced in the National Film Festival Regulations:

(i) Award for 2nd best feature film has been abolished.

(ii) Amount of special jury award has been increased from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 25,000/-.

(iii) Additional sum for getting a film sub-titled as mentioned in Regulation 27 has been increased from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-.

(iv) A new award for best music direction with a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- and a Rajat Kamal to the Music director has been introduced for Non-feature film Section.

(c) The changes in the Regulations have been incorporated on the acceptance of the recommendations of the juries of 39th National Film Festival, by the Government.

Automation in Doordarshan

187. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item that appeared in the 'Indian Express' New Delhi dated 6.6.1993 under the caption 'DD Automation Drive Goes Haywire';

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal for automation in Doordarshan;

(c) what is the proposed expenditure during the current year and what was the expenditure during the year 1992; and

(d) what are the reasons for not implementing the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal for automation in Doordarshan.